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violations invoke this legislation in order to evade inquiries. It has also been used by the Argentine State as a pretext for blocking the pursuit of the national and international legal actions.

22. As regards the impunity accorded to crimes committed during the democracy-building process, the Chamber of Deputies of the Nation has half approved the so-called "repentance law" which provides for impunity to be accorded to a person repenting of a crime prompted by racial, religious, political or professional motives.

B. Social control

23. We have recently been threatened with penalties under an 'anti-revolt' law designed to repress the leading participants in social protests. On the pretext of seeking appropriate instruments for investigating the appalling acts of terrorism against the Argentine Jewish community, the governing party, with the agreement of some of the members of the opposition parties, has introduced legislation that creates a new category of offence intended for social and political opponents.

The organization used by civil society

24. Definition of "disappeared person". The law restituting the custody of persons defined as "absent due to enforced disappearance" is one of the main historic contributions of Mothers, Relatives and Grandmothers to Argentine society. Regrettably, Argentine legislators have not accepted the historic challenge of amending the legislation (civil, labour and penal) in force to enable it to deal with the consequences of the appalling State crime of "enforced disappearance of persons".

25. The indemnification issue. Our organizations have called for the repeal of the decree establishing regulations to implement law 24,411. While we have not obtained that, the law has been amended in response to our proposals and observations.

26. Bicameral Committee of Inquiry. We representatives of the human rights bodies have urged the setting up of a bicameral committee of inquiry to investigate, assemble and systematize all the information on the fate of disappeared persons. A member of the Senate submitted a draft which became invalid because it was not taken up within the regulation period (two years). Currently a new draft has been submitted but unfortunately there seems to be no support for an agreement on it owing to the opposition of the Executive (Ministry of the Interior).

27. This inquiry should include: names and particulars of persons who were taken to, or seen at, secret detention centres; names of the authorities who directly ordered the detention and of those who carried it out; acts that may have caused physical or mental injury to persons illegally detained and names of those who directly ordered such acts or carried them out; names of the authorities in charge of the secret detention centre; fate of persons illegally detained, and names of those who gave the relevant orders; in case of death or disappearance, names of the persons who carried out the execution,